

REMARKS

In response to the non-final Office Action mailed October 30, 2009, applicant has amended claim 1 and rejoined withdrawn claims 18-26, which previously were withdrawn in response to a Restriction Requirement. No new matter has been introduced by way of amendment.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §112, second paragraph

At page 2 of the Office Action, the Office rejects claim 1 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In particular, the Office states it is unclear what is being disposed on “the first and the second base layer”, what is being opened in the lateral region of the inner base portion, what “whose portion” refers to, and what “its lower end” refers to in claim 1. The Office also indicates that “the lateral region” in line 7 and “the vertical bar” and “the T shape” in line 11 lack antecedent basis. Furthermore, the Office indicates that the scope and meaning of lines 13-15 are not understood.

Applicant has amended claim 1 to correct the antecedent errors and also to more clearly define the claimed invention. The clarity amendments are grammatical and illustrative in nature and do not change the scope of the invention. Support for the amendments is found in the application as originally filed, including Figure 3. No new matter has been introduced by way of amendment. As amended, applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 overcomes the indefiniteness rejection and consequently applicant requests that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

At page 2 of the Office Action, the Office indicates that claims 1-26 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 USC §112, second paragraph. Applicant thanks the Office for its indication of allowability. As discussed above, applicant had amended claim 1 to overcome the rejection. Applicant has rejoined claims 18-26, which previously were withdrawn in response to a Restriction Requirement.

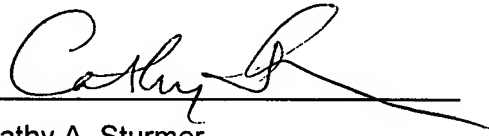
CONCLUSION

It is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance, and early passage to allowance is earnestly solicited.

It is not believed that any fees are due with the submission of this paper, but if that belief is incorrect, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct the fees from our Deposit Account 23-0442.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 1/29/10


Cathy A. Sturmer
Agent for the Applicant
Reg. No. 60,869

WARE, FRESSOLA, VAN DER SLUYS
& ADOLPHSON LLP
Bradford Green, Building Five
755 Main Street, P.O. Box 224
Monroe, CT 06468
Tel. No. (203) 261-1234
Customer No. 004955